metro
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GETTY IMAGES

ALL-STAR WEDDING

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's A-list wedding. 6

This is how London celebrated newlyweds Harry and Meghan. 8-9

Ranking the top-10 NBA players of all time. 30-31

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LONER'S REJECTION REVENGE

Dimitrios Pagourtzis, the Texas high school student who shot and killed eight students and two teachers last Friday, may have been motivated to open fire on his classmates after he was publicly humiliated by one of the students he made advances toward, according to the victim's mother. 4

GALVESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

EMMA E. FORREST, METRO EDITOR

When Britain's favorite royal got hitched to a Hollywood star, it was no straight-up royal wedding. Not just because the bride is a mixed-race American divorcee actress, but mostly because the ceremony showed diversity, warmth and personality, not really a forte for British royal events. Who knows if Meghan can change "The Firm," but let's hope it doesn't change her — too much. Either way, here's a U.K.-U.S. special relationship we can all get excited about. Read more on pages 6-9 and at **metro.us**.

Emma E. Forrest, London, U.K.

1 TRUMP TO DEMAND THAT DOJ EXAMINE CAMPAIGN CLAIMS

President Donald Trump demanded on Twitter on Sunday that the Justice Department look into whether his 2016 presidential campaign was infiltrated or surveilled by the agency or the FBI under the Obama administration. Trump's simmering anger over Special Counsel Robert Mueller's year-old Russia probe appeared to spill over into a series of well-worn recriminations in several tweets, including that the investigation was politically motivated and had its roots in the administration of his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama. Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was quoted by the New York Times later on Sunday as saying that Mueller had said the investigation would wrap up by Sept. 1. Trump has denied any collusion and repeatedly dismissed the investigation as a "witch hunt." "I hereby demand, and will do so officially tomorrow, that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes — and if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

2 HAWAII FACES NEW THREAT FROM VOLCANO: LAZE

Hawaii residents dealing with Kilauea's volcanic eruption faced a potentially deadly new challenge on Sunday as lava that reached the Pacific Ocean threatened to send up laze, a hazardous mix of glass particles and noxious gas. The new challenge came when a stream of lava from the volcano cut through Highway 137 on the south coast of Hawaii's Big Island late on Saturday and then poured into the sea, authorities said. The mix of erupting lava, which can reach 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and sea water could send up plumes of laze, a mix of hydrochloric acid, steam and volcanic glass particles, Hawaii County Civil Defense said in a statement. "Be aware of the laze hazard and stay away from any ocean plume," the agency said, warning that potential hazards include lung damage. Laze — a combination of "lava" and "haze" — killed two people in 2000 when a lava flow reached the coast, and even a wisp can irritate eyes and lungs and make it hard to breath, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The public was warned to stay away from potential plumes of laze near where the lava is flowing into the ocean.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

3 PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN MARKLE

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle during their wedding service, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on Saturday, in Windsor, England. ***Read more on pages 6-9.***

4 US WILL NOT RECOGNIZE VENEZUELA ELECTION

The U.S. will not recognize the result of Venezuela's presidential election on Sunday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan told journalists. The United States is actively considering oil sanctions on Venezuela, and Sullivan said a response to Sunday's vote would be discussed at a G20 meeting in Buenos Aires on Monday. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was seeking a six-year term in a Sunday election boycotted by the opposition and condemned by foes as the "coronation" of a dictator. Maduro looked set to win re-election on Sunday in a seemingly poorly attended vote. Despite his unpopularity over the OPEC member's economic meltdown, the 55-year-old former bus driver was benefiting from a boycott by the mainstream opposition, a ban on his two most popular rivals, and state institutions in loyalists' hands. The vote could trigger new sanctions from the United States, and more censure from the European Union and Latin America. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the election a "sham."

5 MNUCHIN: US AND CHINA TO PUT TRADE WAR 'ON HOLD'

The U.S. trade war with China is "on hold" after the world's largest economies agreed to drop their tariff threats while they work on a wider trade agreement, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Sunday. Mnuchin and U.S. President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said the agreement reached by Chinese and American negotiators on Saturday set up a framework for addressing trade imbalances in the future. "We are putting the trade war on hold. Right now, we have agreed to put the tariffs on hold while we try to execute the framework," Mnuchin said in a television interview on "Fox News Sunday." On Saturday, Beijing and Washington said they would keep talking about measures under which China would import more energy and agricultural commodities from the United States to narrow the $335 billion annual U.S. goods and services trade deficit with China. During an initial round of talks this month in Beijing, Washington demanded that China reduce its trade surplus by $200 billion. No dollar figure was cited in the countries' joint statement on Saturday.

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5 Tips to Remember to Avoid Being a Victim of Medical Malpractice

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2. Get a Second Opinion about your Upcoming Procedure before it Occurs - Before any non-emergency medical procedure, it is a good idea to get a second opinion. Getting a second opinion is not a matter of not trusting your doctor, it is a matter of being an educated patient.

3. Bring a Loved One or Friend - When undergoing a serious medical procedure, bring a loved one or friend who can be your "eyes" and "ears" and help you think through important decisions. Having a second pair of eyes and ears may help keep you out of harm's way.

4. Get the Best Care Possible - Perhaps the most effective way to avoid medical error is to avoid substandard physicians. The best way to prevent this is to research potential doctors before committing. If you ask the right questions and perform the right research, you will be well on your way to finding the right doctor and reducing your chances of being a victim of medical malpractice.

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Spurned advances provoked Texas school shooting, victim's mother says

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, told reporters that the alleged shooter obtained the firearms from his father, who had likely acquired them legally.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (front), his wife Cecilia Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (L) and other officials bring flowers for a makeshift memorial on the grounds of Santa Fe High School on May 20, 2018, in Santa Fe, Texas. GETTY IMAGES

A teenaged boy who shot and killed eight students and two teachers in Texas had been spurned by one of his victims after making aggressive advances, her mother told the Los Angeles Times.

Sadie Rodriguez, the mother of Shana Fisher, 16, told the newspaper that her daughter rejected four months of aggressive advances from accused shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzis, 17, at the Santa Fe high school.

Fisher finally stood up to him and embarrassed him in class, the newspaper quoted her mother as writing in a private message to the Times.

"A week later he opens fire on everyone he didn't like," she said. "Shana being the first one."

Rodriguez could not independently be reached for comment.

If true, it would be the second school shooting in recent months driven by such rejection.

In March, a 17-year-old Maryland high school student used his father's gun to shoot and kill a female student with whom he had been in a recently ended relationship.

As the investigation enters its third day on Sunday, no official motive has been announced for the massacre, the fourth-deadliest mass shooting at a U.S. public school in modern history.

The Santa Fe school district denied accounts from some classmates that Pagourtzis had been bullied, including by a football coach.

"Administration looked into these claims and confirmed that these reports are untrue," it said on Saturday in a statement on Facebook.

Classmates at Santa Fe High School, which has some 1,460 students, described Pagourtzis as a quiet loner who played on the school's football team. He wore a black trench coat to school in the Texas heat on Friday and opened fire with a pistol and shotgun.

Multiple news accounts depicted him as taunting his victims as he fired, focusing mostly on the arts class where Fisher was.

He has provided authorities little information about the shootings, his attorney Nicholas Poehl said, adding: "Honestly because of his emotional state, I don't have a lot on that."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Pagourtzis wanted to commit suicide, citing the suspect's journals, but did not have the courage to do so.

Pagourtzis' family said in a statement they were "saddened and dismayed" by the shooting and "as shocked as anyone else" by the events. They said they are cooperating with authorities.

All schools in Santa Fe will be closed Monday and Tuesday, officials said.

Pagourtzis, who police said has confessed to the shooting, was being held without bond Sunday at a jail in Galveston. ***Read more on page 18.*** REUTERS

Texas victims include smiling Pakistani girl, fill-in teacher with two jobs

Eight students and two teachers fell victim to gunfire at a high school outside Houston on Friday morning, becoming the latest casualties in a wave of deadly school shootings in the United States in recent years.

Among the fatalities at Santa Fe High School were a Pakistani exchange student and a substitute teacher trying to make ends meet for her family. Here are brief profiles of some of the victims:

Sabika Sheikh
A 17-year-old Pakistani with a bright smile, Sheikh was proud to be studying in the United States as an exchange student. The experience was organized through YES, a program funded by the U.S. State Department which provides scholarships for students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend one academic year in the United States.

Her father told reporters in her hometown of Karachi that she was the eldest of four children and due to return to Pakistan next month for Eid al-Fitr, a three day holiday.

Cynthia Tisdale
Tisdale was a substitute teacher at Santa Fe High School. She took on a second job as a server at a local restaurant after she became her family's sole income earner when her husband was diagnosed with an incurable lung disease, her brother-in-law John Tisdale posted on Facebook.

Ann Perkins
Perkins was a substitute teacher known to students and other members of the Santa Fe community as "Grandma Perkins" for her love of spending time with her children, grandchildren and students, according to a local CBS affiliate.

Pakistani exchange student Sabika Sheikh was among the fatalities at Santa Fe High School. PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER HOUSTON FACEBOOK

Christian Riley Garcia
Garcia was remembered on Facebook by the Crosby Church pastor who baptized him years earlier. A photograph of Garcia, 15, taken just days before the shooting, shows him wearing sunglasses, a baseball cap and a slight smile that reveals braces on his teeth.

Kimberly Vaughan
After a search for her missing daughter, U.S. Army veteran Rhonda Hart posted to Facebook that Vaughan had been shot dead in her first-period art class.

Shana Fisher
Just one week after she celebrated her 16th birthday, Fisher was killed when the gunman opened fire on the art class, her aunt wrote on Twitter. "She should be getting her first car, not a funeral," tweeted @candithurman.

Chris Stone
Stone, 17, had a passion for adventure and football. The high school junior's Facebook page features photographs of such sports heroes as the Dallas Cowboys and scenic views of breathtaking wilderness.

Angelique Ramirez
Ramirez's aunt Sylvia Pritchett, a nurse, frantically asked colleagues on Facebook if her niece was at an area hospital after she was told she had been shot in the leg. Later Pritchett announced that Ramirez was among the fatalities, saying that she had "a broken heart and a soul that can't process all this right now," and to "hug your children tightly."

Jared Conard Black
Black, who according to his Facebook page liked to draw anime pictures, celebrated his 17th birthday just two days before he was shot dead, his uncle told KTRK-TV.

According to a GoFundMe set up by a family friend to raise money for relatives to fly to the funeral from California, Jared's father "sat in misery for 13 hours not knowing if [his son] was one of the victims. Then he got the devastating news."

Kyle McLeod
ABC News reported that McLeod, 15, was among the students killed. REUTERS

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A colorful wedding full of details

In Great Britain, hats are a tradition, protected by the aristocratic principle of individuality. But at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding and beyond the bride's significant Givenchy dress — the veil depicted the Commonwealth countries with flowers —celebrities also showed how they can reinvent a royal wedding dress code for posterity. Metro highlights our picks of looks that became a digital delight for internet users and fashionistas. **LUZ LANCHEROS, MWN**

1 Amal Clooney
Best dressed! Yellow may not suit everyone but it definitely looks great on the human rights lawyer. Her Stella Mccartney had the perfect cut and silhouette, with remarkable accents in the same color, a simple hairstyle and contrasting makeup.

2 Victoria Beckham
Seven years ago, she dressed in black for William and Kate's wedding, but this time she opted for dark blue. With such a minimalist and refined style, she can always be herself and impact with a dress in simple lines and a tulle headdress that's not improvised.

3 Priyanka Chopra
Curves in Dior, a pastel ensemble with simple lines. An outfit that impacts by wrapping the body to perfection, classically highlighting her silhouette, but without being boring.

4 Kitty Spencer
This is how you can take flowers to a wedding other than as a bouquet. With a dreamy Dolce & Gabbana dress, with touches of orange and perfectly styled that lets the dress speak on its own, complemented with a geometric and original headdress.

5 Serena Williams
A dress that perfectly adapted to her body (Versace) with a headdress that respects the original shape of the tennis player's hair. Her best look so far.

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Oxford Street sellers filled their souvenir shops with Harry and Meghan plates, T-shirts, bags, key rings and mugs; and Regent Street was awash with Union Jack flags. GETTY IMAGES

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This is how London celebrated newlyweds Harry and Meghan

Metro reported from the British city during Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding date.

JAMES LEYFIELD
MWN
letters@metro.us

Londoners were gripped by royal wedding fever as fans came out in force to celebrate Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's big day — dressing in swimsuits featuring the happy couple's faces, sipping special beer to commemorate their nuptials, and making replica lemon and elderflower cakes.

Partygoers wearing Harry and Meghan masks, and patriotic red, white and blue clothing packed out pubs and street parties full of Union Jack bunting and flags to mark the huge occasion.

Meghan lookalikes wore crowns and tiaras for the day, and royal superfans crammed around big screens clutching glasses full of champagne eagerly looking out for glimpses of the bride in her stunning dress.

A host of The Windsor Castle pubs around London — including one in Kensington, just metres from the couple's Kensington Palace home — stocked a special Harry and Meghan ale, Windsor Knot, and supporters became emotional as they watched the nuptials.

Rina Kuci, 22, a barmaid at The Windsor Castle in Marylebone, said: "I'm a huge royal fan. I nearly cried when they were saying their vows."

At a street party near Marble Arch, one family spent hundreds on various Harry and Meghan memorabilia, including swimsuits, corgi balloons, and commemorative plates.

Fay Strang, 32, who had a bathing suit custom made to celebrate the big day, said: "I love Meghan Markle and am so excited she is joining the royal family.

"The picture on my swimsuit was my favorite one of their engagement photographs — they just look so happy and in love. I've had so many compliments and will be wearing it after the wedding!"

Other partygoers were made to feel as though they were guests at Harry and Meghan's wedding reception as they tucked into delicious lemon and elderflower cupcakes — the same flavor as the real sweet treat made by pastry chef Claire Ptak.

Host Anna Turnbull-Walker, 60, who made the replica cakes, said: "When I heard what they were having, I thought it was really unusual and would be fun to re-create, and they went down really well.

"The last time we had a royal wedding party was when Charles married Diana — let's hope this marriage ends better!"

At a royal wedding party in south London, guests were served special sausages featuring "sweet ginger" — to reflect Harry's hair color — and American mustard, to mark Meghan's home nation, as well as quintessentially British desserts, such as strawberries and cream, and Eton mess.

Amy Rowland, 33, who baked some scones for the big day, said: "When I think of the royals I think

Prince Harry places the wedding ring on the finger of Meghan Markle during their wedding service.

Harry and Meghan, the duke and duchess of Sussex, meet the crowds as they leave Windsor Castle. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Meghan Markle arrives at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

"The last time we had a royal wedding party was when Charles married Diana — let's hope this marriage ends better!"
Anna Turnbull-Walker

of British delicacies like scones, so I just had to make some. They were delicious!"

Aesthetically pleasing London church One Marylebone went all out to celebrate Harry and Meghan's union by hiring Sir Elton John and Ed Sheeran tribute acts to serenade guests.

Attendee Alison Range, 24, said: "We cannot wait to see what Elton and Ed have in store — what a perfect way to toast the happy couple."

Some fans ensured Harry's mother, the late Princess Diana, was remembered on the big day by setting up their picnics next to The Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park.

Pam Stevens, 57, said: "I just felt this was the right place to be today. Diana would've been proud of Harry."

In the lead-up to the big day, Londoners transformed the city into a Harry and Meghan masterpiece.

Oxford Street sellers filled their souvenir shops with Harry and Meghan plates, T-shirts, bags, key rings and mugs; and Regent Street was awash with Union Jack flags.

Marks & Spencer stores around the capital were rebranded Markle & Sparkle for the weekend, and pubs spent weeks perfecting royal cocktail recipes.

Royal superfan Kate Randall, 34, said: "I've been looking forward to this day for months and expected to have a fabulous time, but this is beyond even my wildest dreams. Cheers to the happy couple!"

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The implications of the Supreme Court decision are still be figured out — like when exactly the new laws take effect — but everyone agrees legalizing a multi-billion-dollar black market industry will create jobs and boost the local economy. ISTOCK

Betting on Atlantic City just became a very smart move

New laws, new casinos and tax cuts could be the perfect recipe for a boom on the Jersey Shore.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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After decades of gambling on sports, here's a surprise that few Americans were betting on: sports gambling is now legal. The May 14 Supreme Court decision striking down a ban on sports bets represents a change in the gambling world so massive it was hard to put into words, even for seasoned bettors like the Philly Godfather.

"It's a monumental day," the Philly Godfather, real name Steve Maltpepe, marveled. "People are gonna be able to bet on whatever they want."

The implications of the Supreme Court decision are still be figured out — like when exactly the new laws take effect — but everyone agrees legalizing a multi-billion-dollar black market industry will create jobs and boost the local economy. Coupled with an upward swing in the fortunes of Atlantic City, which recently reported its first gains after years of decline and has two brand-new casinos set to open on the same day next months.

"It's gonna be great for the East Coast," Philly Godfather predicted. "No one has to fly out to Las Vegas anymore, that five-hour grueling flight. As long as Atlantic City can be built up in the right way, that whole Vegas feel they have out there, if they can replicate it here, it will be huge."

A new state report shows that as of April 2018, total gaming revenues were up 1.3 percent in Atlantic City's casino scene over a year prior at $214 million, according to the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. Enthusiasm is in the air: On Memorial Day weekend, Resorts Casino Hotel will celebrate its 40th anniversary by dropping 10,000 beach balls on the Boardwalk and re-enacting the first roll of the dice ever to take place at the casino in 1978.

Four weeks later on June 28, two casinos are opening on the same day (reportedly a first in Atlantic City history): the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and the Ocean Resort Casino. The two casinos collectively represent the creations of some 6,500 jobs in the area. Several of the casinos are planning to open up their own sports books to compete with those in Vegas.

6,500
Two casinos opening in June will bring 6,500 jobs to the area.

"It could be huge if they do it the right way .... the pool parties, the clubs, you gotta have other things to do. Now, with the sports betting it will be a domino effect, if you can make it a destination," Philly Godfather predicted. "NBA playoffs, NHL Stanley Cup, March Madness — people like to go somewhere and have fun while they're gambling. It could become ever bigger than Vegas. The majority of the population lives on the East Coast, 140 million people. Who's gonna take that five-hour long flight?"

Philly Godfather runs his own website, PhillyGodfather.com, a subscription service that since 2012 has offered his picks and tips for who to bet on in the sports world. ("We're the real deal, the one percent of professional sports bettors that actually win," he said.)

The only people who will get hurt, he said, are small-time street bookies who have been the go-to guy for black market gambling. And he predicted states will begin cracking down on those operations as they begin collecting tax revenue on legalized, regulated gambling.

"It's bad news for the local street bookies. ... It's really going to hurt the mob more than anybody else," he said. "They're gonna be in trouble economically."

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Friends mourn Caviar courier killed by SUV at 'ghost bike' memorial

Friends and family of Pablo Avendano, the Caviar bike courier killed by an SUV on May 12, gathered to install a "Ghost Bike" memorial at 10th and Spring Garden where he died. KAIT MOORE

A professional bike courier killed while delivering food for Caviar was remembered by friends and family who bashed the gig economy.

KAIT MOORE
letters@metro.us

Pablo Avendano's "warm spirit" filled the hearts of many during a memorial protest held in remembrance of him on May 19.

Family, friends and fellow bikers dressed in black and biked from Tattooed Moms to 10th and Spring Garden streets, where he was killed delivering food for Caviar, an app that hires independent contractors to deliver food by bike.

A memorial "ghost bike" was put in place to commemorate Avendano's life, just a day after 11-year-old Julian Angelucci was killed at 10th and Shunk streets, the second bicycle fatality of 2018.

In the drizzling rain, Avendano's partner, Anne Marie Drolet, stood on the back of a pick-up and spoke to a large crowd of bicyclists in black that blocked traffic from the 900 block of Spring Garden.

She spoke of Avendano's fight for a better life against a wage economy.

"I guess we liked being bike couriers, but we would complain about the people we were catering to, the bulls—t we had to put up with, and being a wage slave," Drolet said, as the crowd cheered out in support.

"We were just trying to make it. We wanted to make a difference. He was the most amazing person I've ever met. I've never been so happy with anyone. I want to keep fighting for him."

Many of Avendano's friends spoke in honor of him and against the gig economy that they feel took his life.

"Pablo was killed because people were making off of what he was doing," his friend George Ciccariello-Maher said.

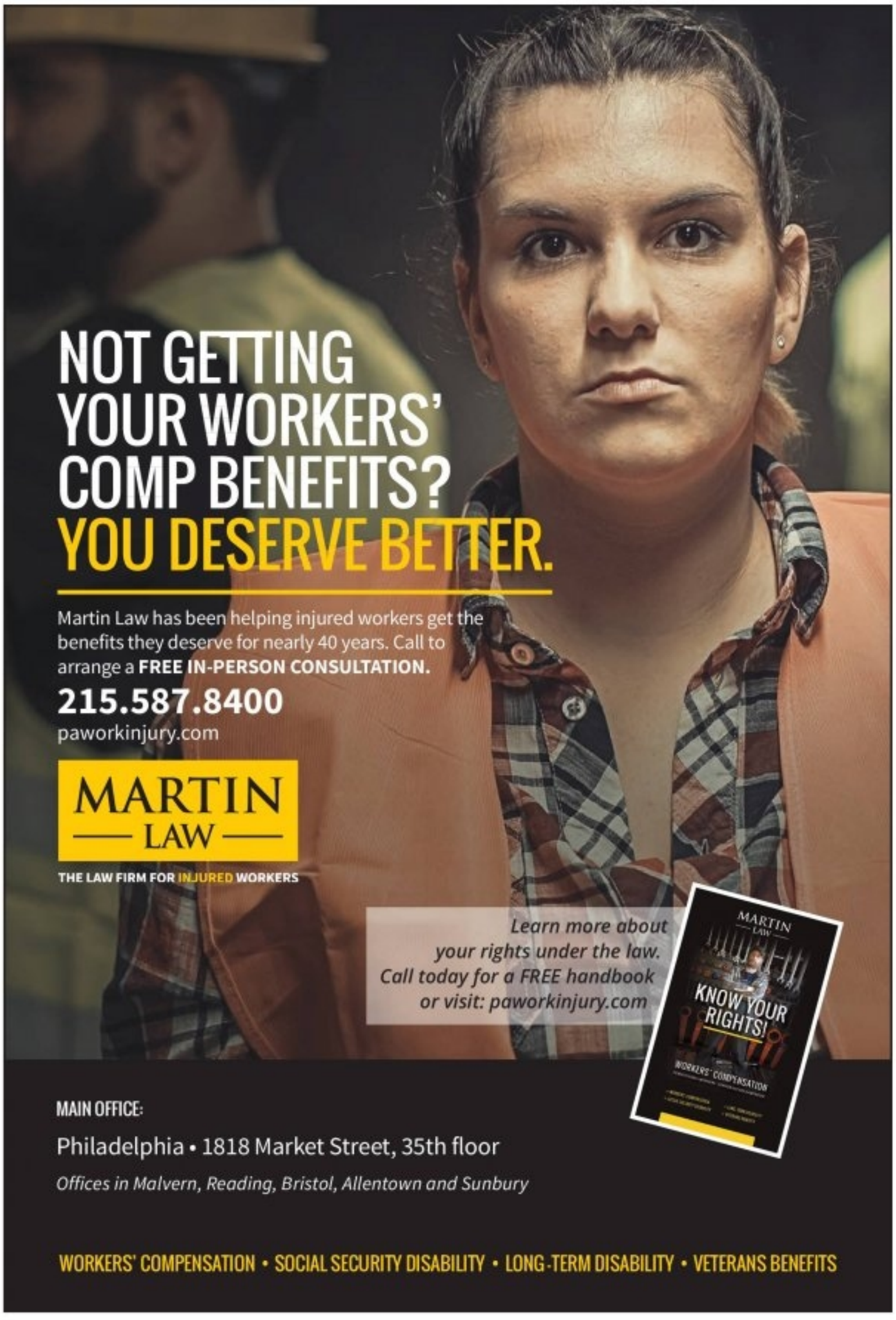
"They were making money off not paying benefits. They were making money off the fact that he was nothing, not even a worker, just a number. These gig economy jobs, like Caviar, are killing people. And when they're not killing them, they're making them suffer," he said.

The crowd cheered and hollered out his name, "Pablo!" His brother, Bryan Avendano, shouted and banged a tamborine in his honor.

"He was one of the most beautiful people I've ever met," Ciccariello-Maher said. "He was someone when the first time we met he felt like family and everyone else has said that. This was not particular to certain people. He wanted to spread his love and family across the world."

Avendano's friends and family are demanding that Caviar pay for the family's funeral expenses. They also want Caviar to reclassify its riders as W-2 employees, offer a livable wage of $20 per hour, offer health benefits, hazard pay and maintenance/repair reimbursement.

A Caviar spokeswoman previously told the Inquirer the company is "seeing what we can do to help" Avendano's family. A Gofundme has also been set up to to raise money for the Avendano family at gofundme.com/all-out-for-pablito.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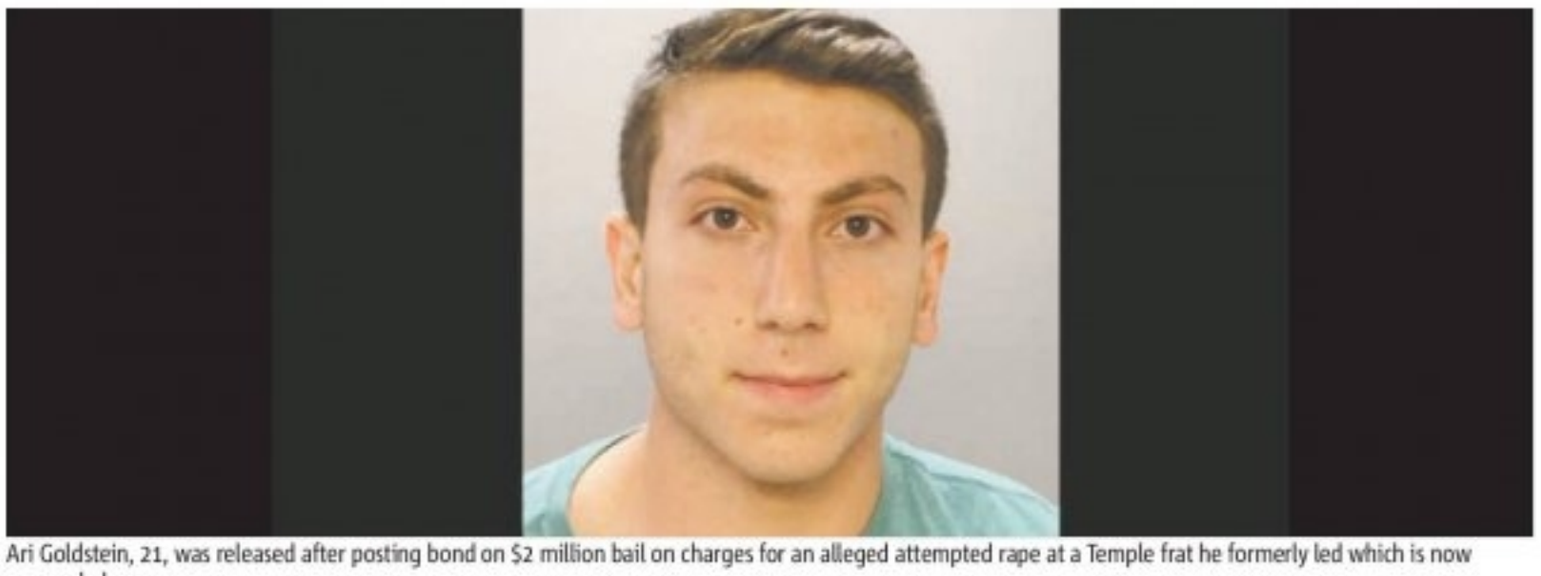

Ari Goldstein, 21, was released after posting bond on $2 million bail on charges for an alleged attempted rape at a Temple frat he formerly led which is now suspended. PPD

Former Temple frat president charged with attempted rape out on bond

A Temple student who formerly led a controversial frat was charged with attempted rape is released after posting bond.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The former president of the Temple fraternity chapter that was banned from campus after it was linked to multiple allegations of sexual misconduct was charged this week with attempted rape.

Ari Goldstein, 21, of Wrightstown was ordered held on $2 million bail after he was charged with attempted rape, intimidation, indecent assault and threatening a witness.

But Goldstein was released after his family posted a bond worth 10 percent of the bail, or $200,000, CBS reported.

Goldstein is formerly the president of the Temple chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, which was suspended in April after the university said multiple incidents of sexual assault had been reported there. He is detained at Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility pending a preliminary hearing scheduled for May 31.

He was reportedly arrested as he was in Boston at Logan International Airport preparing to board a plane to Israel for a vacation. The DA's office had originally asked for $10 million bail.

"Given the seriousness of this crime, our office requested high bail which was set at $2 million," said Philly DA Larry Krasner's spokesman Ben Waxman in a statement. Waxman added that they're encouraging any other victims to contact police by calling 911 or the Special Victims Unit at 215-685-3260.

The Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity was reportedly known for its wild parties, and its suspension was also for underage drinking and drug use. Two 19-year-old women had first reported being sexually assaulted at the frat to police at the frat house on Broad near Norris Street. One specifically said she believed she had been drugged and molested.

Goldstein is charged for allegedly assaulting a female, pinning her down and telling her to "shush" as he attempted to force her into a sex act before she escaped and fled, the Inquirer reported.

Goldstein's defense attorney Perry de Marco told media that Goldstein was innocent and was being treated unfairly, telling CBS that other clients on similar charges would only face $3,000 to $12,000 bail for such charges.

The fraternity's broader organization has denied any knowledge of the assaults and decried Goldstein's alleged conduct.

"Alpha Epsilon Pi International has no additional information about the charges being brought," they said in a statement. "The young man charged was not the chapter president at the time of his arrest. He had been removed as president several weeks ago and the chapter has been suspended by the International Fraternity for nearly a month. We are, obviously, deeply troubled by the charges leveled at this young man. We believe in due process but there is clearly no place for this behavior in our organization and, if proven true, I would expect the individual to be permanently expelled from our fraternity."

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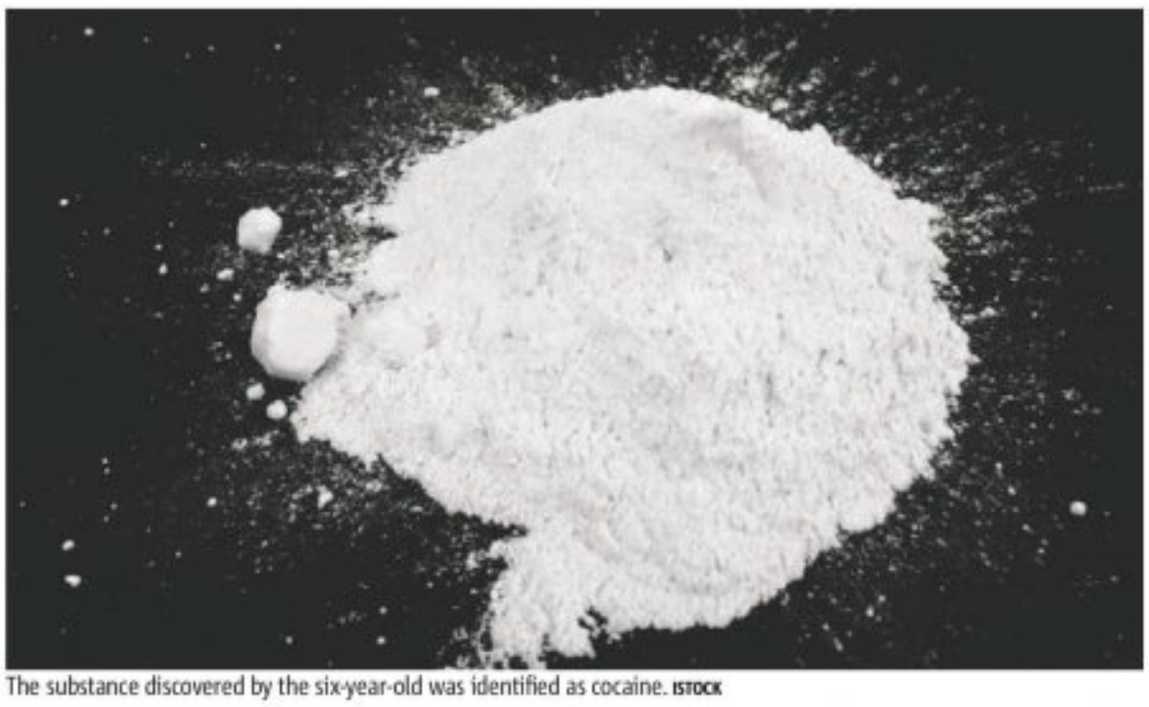
Philly kindergartner finds bag of cocaine in classmate's backpack



The substance discovered by the six-year-old was identified as cocaine. ISTOCK

The kindergartner thought the cocaine was sugar and chewed on the bag.

SARAH LUOMA
letters@metro.us

A 6-year-old kindergarten student from Southwest Philadelphia's Mastery Charter's Hardy Williams Elementary School found a bag of cocaine in a fellow classmate's backpack on Wednesday and mistook the drugs for sugar.

The young girl found the drugs in the bag of a young boy while she was in the classroom, Philadelphia police reported when discussing the scary and extremely dangerous incident.

"She put the actual bag in her mouth and was chewing it," said Philadelphia Police Lt. John Walker. "Fortunately, she didn't break the actual seal."

Luckily, the young girl's teacher spotted her with the bag. Quick to act, the teacher took the bag away from the kindergartner immediately, suspecting it was drugs. The teacher then called the local police and notified the Department of Homeland Security.

Police arrived at the school shortly after 1:30 p.m. to investigate the incident. Both kindergartners were brought to the nurse's office and checked for any signs or symptoms of ingestion. They were cleared and sent home.

A grandparent of the 6-year-old kindergarten boy who had drugs in his bag did not know how the child ended up with the substance.

"How does that even get in her book bag?" said Anthony Richardson. "Police will have a thorough investigation, hopefully everything is good."

All of the bags of the kindergarten class that consists of 25 students were checked following the incident as a precaution. Police have since informed the public that they do not believe the drugs came from the home of the kindergartner.

Police have informed the parents of all of the students to bring their child to the hospital immediately if they notice anything unusual.

Philadelphia police are still working to determine where the drugs may have come from. They do not believe it came from the home of the 6-year-old boy.

NORTH KOREA

South Korea, US to work closely on summit after Pyongyang's about-face

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Donald Trump held discussions on Sunday to ensure that the North Korea-U.S. summit remains on track after North Korea threatened to pull out of the high-level talks.

Moon and Trump spoke over the phone for about 20 minutes, and exchanged their views on North Korea's recent reactions, South Korea's presidential office said without elaborating.

"The two leaders will work closely and unwaveringly for the successful hosting of the North Korea- U.S. summit set on June 12, including the upcoming South Korea-U.S. summit," the presidential official said.

Moon and Trump are set to meet on Tuesday in Washington before North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets with Trump on June 12 in Singapore.

The White House said Trump and Moon continued "their close coordination ahead of Trump's June 12 meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un."

Although a historic inter-Korean summit in late April raised hopes of reconciliation, North Korea showed a dramatic change in tone in recent days.

North Korea's chief negotiator Ri Son Gwon said on Thursday it would not hold talks with South Korea unless their demands were met, taking issue with the U.S.-South Korean air combat drills known as Max Thunder. It came a day after it threatened to pull out of the summit with the United States. REUTERS

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Handmade parade floats and silly string were on display near the corner of Norris and Susquehanna streets. KAIT MOORE

Philly takes to the streets for the Kensington Kinetic Sculpture Derby

The daylong event was a celebration of colors, costumes and engineering.

KAIT MOORE
letters@metro.us

On Saturday, residents of East Kensington took to the streets with their handmade parade floats where they were greeted with obstacles of orange powder, dodgeballs and silly string at Norris and Susquehanna streets.

Contestants of the Kensington Kinetic Sculpture Derby ended their ride through a messy mud pit at Trenton Ave and Dauphin Street before the final awards ceremony. Contestants were awarded based on a variety of categories including "best engineering" and "best costuming."

The daylong event also featured art vendor tables along Trenton Avenue with items for purchase and a variety of food trucks.

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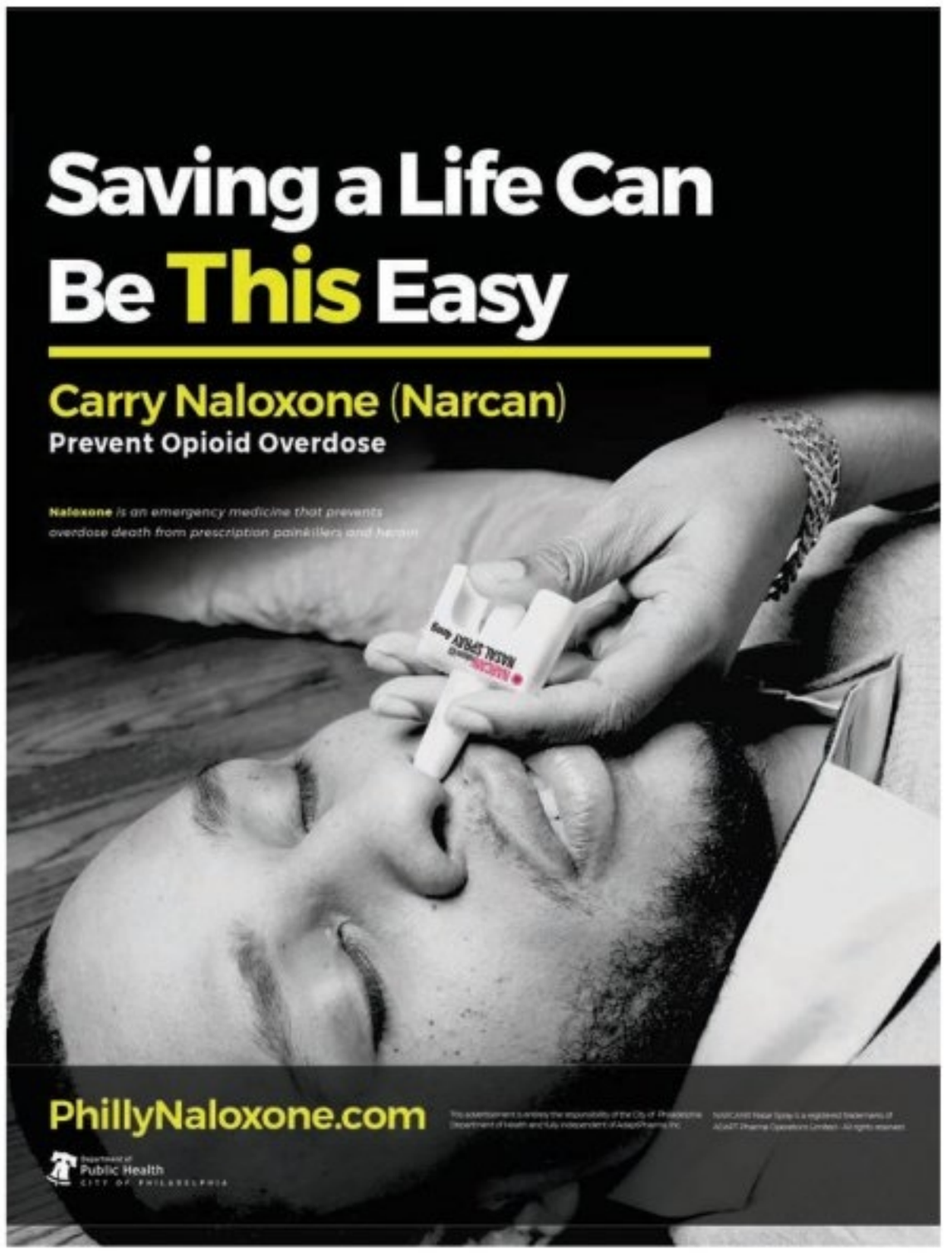
Derby contestants ended their ride through a messy mud pit at Trenton Ave. and Dauphin Street. ALL PHOTOS KAIT MOORE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TRUMP'S AMERICA

SHUTTING THE DOOR ON GUN SANITY

On Friday, a shooter at Santa Fe High School in Texas killed 10 people. GETTY IMAGES

Analysis

ELLIS HENICAN

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is the best-selling author of a dozen books. Join Ellis on Twitter @henican.

Another 10 dead by gunfire, and here we go again.

This time, the slaughter was outside Houston at Santa Fe High School. And Dan Patrick, the pro-gun lieutenant governor of Texas, had another imbecilic excuse for refusing to do anything about America's sickness with guns. Guns weren't responsible for the Santa Fe massacre, he insisted, even though shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzis came to school with his dad's Remington 870 shotgun and .38-caliber pistol and fired dozens of rounds.

Blame the doors, he said.

"There are too many entrances and too many exits to our more than 8,000 campuses in Texas," claimed Patrick, an evangelical Christian who wants to loosen gun laws in Texas, though it's hard to imagine how that's even possible. "Had there been one single entrance possibly for every student, maybe he would have been stopped."

This is the deflection du jour: Not gun control, door control! Guns don't kill people — doors do!

If you think I'm kidding, just know this: Right now, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is touting a "Win a Texas-made Shotgun" giveaway on his website. But the next Dimitrios Pagourtzis had better act quickly. Entries for the pump-action drawing close May 31.

The truth of the matter is that Santa Fe High School had already gone through many of the pointless motions that the gun-sanity deflectors like to promote at times like this, hoping to avoid any real gun-safety measures.

Lockdowns. Evacuation drills. Armed guards. The Santa Fe students got all that. The one thing they didn't get was any action that might have actually protected them from an ever-expanding proliferation of guns.

Trigger locks. Background checks. Age limits. Bans on military-style firepower. Smaller magazines. Strict liability laws. Legal responsibility for parents who fail to safeguard their weapons at homes.

I heard another one recently. Tax the bullets. A lot. Like, 3,000 percent. At some point, we could probably price the homicidal maniacs out of their mayhem.

There is no magic bullet, of course — and sorry about the sorry analogy. But we already know what would make America's children a little safer if we cared to. Sorry, Lt. Gov. Patrick. That doesn't include armed math and English teachers, and it doesn't include door control.

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@metrophilly

Get those vape clouds out of my face! ISTOCK

the GRUMBLE

Pat King
Metro US Reporter

Stop puffing your vape clouds indoors!

Ever since smoking cigarettes has been harder to do in most public areas, a new form of air pollution has emerged in a more invasive way. This menace is known vaping. Even though it is a healthier option to smoking cigarettes, what makes vaping a different beast altogether is that there are no laws banning vapers from doing it indoors. This is because vaping is water-based as opposed to ... who really knows everything that's in a cigarette these days? Now, everywhere you go there is big chance that some over confident vape dragon will be releasing long giant puffs of vapor into the air. There's no hiding from it. You could be sitting in a crowded movie theater only to have the person sitting next to you flavor your popcorn with a cotton candy-flavored fog. You could be sitting in your cubicle as your co-worker, let's call him "Todd," is puffing away like the caterpillar from "Alice in Wonderland." No more, I say! So, to all the people out there who choose to vape indoors: Take it outside!

VENT TO US!
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READERS REACT: BASIC MANNERS!

When did the proper response to a polite and sincere "Thank You" devolve from "You're Welcome", or "My Pleasure" to "No Problem".

Really, no problem. Did I say thank you for handling something messy or awkward. Did I just seriously inconvenience you and fluff it off by a mere "Thank you".

No, I appropriately appreciated you holding the door as I entered a store, and you waved me in, or I paid my bill at the grocery and you handed me the correct change and you smiled politely. Thank you is a formal acknowledgement of appreciation for tasks large and small, and it should be reciprocated in the same way.

That should be NO PROBLEM to anyone.

- **Linda Connelly**, *Metro US reader*

Listen you sit eight hours a day at your freaking desk. Why do you have to run and push people out of the way to get a seat on the train. Why don't you let a hospital worker or a construction worker sit down they been on the feet for eight hours. KOOLER THAN YOU

- **Jack Mehoph**, *Metro US reader*

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GETTY IMAGES

The winning caption from Geoff Brower, Metro US reader.

TOMORROW'S PHOTO:

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Aries Focus on what you can do for others and what you want in return. A flair for compromise will be what helps you excel. Go with the flow and avoid interference.

Taurus Ease into whatever you plan to do today. Problems at home will leave you wondering what to do next. Accept the inevitable and do your own thing.

Gemini Your involvement in organized events, retreats or trade shows will motivate you to alter your lifestyle. Initiate change and incorporate a fitness regimen into your daily routine.

Cancer Personal changes can be made, but only if you set a budget and stick to it. Making cosmetic changes will encourage you to update your image and pursue new opportunities.

Leo Overreacting will hurt your reputation or cause a problem at home. Someone will unexpectedly start treating you differently. Stay calm and avoid a senseless argument.

Virgo An energetic presentation will capture attention, but don't mislead people. Stick to the facts and only offer what you know you can deliver. Personal gains are attainable.

Libra Don't make physical changes that will slow you down, lead to complications or cause a problem with an older relative. Think matters through and make reasonable suggestions.

Scorpio Iron out problems before you share your plans with others. You will face opposition from someone you work with or for. A unique option will buy you time and intrigue someone with vision.

Sagittarius A change of location will inspire you to rethink the best way to move forward. Back away from anyone trying to interfere with your decisions or plans.

Capricorn Look for alternative ways to cut corners and save money. Downsizing or investing in something that will lower your expenses should be considered. Share your intentions with someone.

Aquarius Pump yourself up and get energized. Get into the groove and make personal changes that will leave you feeling good about the way you look and the place you live.

Pisces Home and property should be your priorities. Financial gains look promising, and relying on the past to point you in the right direction will pay off. Romance is highlighted. EUGENIA LAST

LIFESTYLE

A DAY IN LIFE OF

Kaitlyn Caruke

Wine as a full-time job? It's totally possible, but are up for the challenge? ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

An office with a wine cellar? We can all cheers to that.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Love wine enough to make a career of it? That's what 29-year-old Kaitlyn Caruke has done as a sommelier. After getting a degree in nutrition and food science, Caruke got her start in New York City in 2012, maintaining the wine cellar at Pearl & Ash.

Since then, she's worked her way up to become head sommelier at Walnut Street Cafe in Philadelphia.

While she doesn't need to go to work until 2 p.m. most days, she does work through the night, and isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves and help the rest of her team with taking orders, running food and clearing tables.

Do you have what it takes to make wine a full-time job? Read on about a busy day (and night) in the life of sommelier Kaitlyn Caruke.

What time do you wake up?
Typically, 9:30 a.m. — occasionally later. I usually have breakfast and fresh coffee at home and hop on my work email immediately. I like to get through them before I get to work. I usually have the news on and try to go for a run before going in — maybe fit in an errand or two in. Then I shower, drink a smoothie and head into work!

How do you get to work?
I'm superlucky — I walk to work every day. I live on Walnut Street, so it's a straight shoot, about 10 minutes to the restaurant. I never had the luxury of walking to work when I lived in NYC, so it was a priority for me when I was moving last year. I get into work at 2 p.m.

What's your workplace like?
The restaurant is gorgeous — high ceilings, tons of natural lighting, beautiful interiors. It's pleasant. Like most somms, I do have my office in the basement. It's the restaurant-industry standard, but there's something oddly comforting about it. I suppose the wine cellar is also a workplace — two separate red and white cellars filled almost to capacity.

What are three things on your daily to do list for work?
I do wine sales daily— monitoring the sales that occurred the day before and how that affects the month and wine purchasing. I prepare for our staff meeting by taking inventory of what we have. During pre-shift meeting I need to inform the staff of specials, events and items we could possibly run out of. Answering emails, scheduling tastings, researching new wines that have made the list and adding those to the list, all occur daily as well.

What do you love most about your job?
What I love most are the people I have met along the way — really interesting, driven people, in all sorts of fields. Restaurant folks, of course, but also sales reps, winemakers, people in public relations, writers and entrepreneurs. It's been rewarding to collaborate or learn from these people. Some former colleagues have become lifetime friends of mine. It's pretty amazing the more people you meet, the more connections you have to the rest of the world. I feel very fortunate for that.

"It's pretty amazing the more people you meet, the more connections you have to the rest of the world. I feel very fortunate for that."

Give us an overview of an average workday.
I arrive at work, do sales reporting, make menu edits, print menus and get ready for pre-shift meeting and service. I stock things where they're needed. I often schedule myself a couple of tasting appointments throughout the day, tasting with the sales reps that I work with, determining what's needed on the list, what wines I want and should purchase. We receive all of our orders on Fridays, so prepping for those orders occurs throughout the week as well. We often have operational meetings with management, going over events happening within the restaurant. Pre-shift meeting is at 4:30 p.m. where we get the run down on the evening. At 5 p.m. we open for service. During service, I focus on wine service mainly, wine sales, assisting guests with their options. I also do what I can to make the night go as smoothly as possible — run food, clear tables, polish, take orders where needed. Service running smoothly and maintaining the right pace of each service step is a goal for every night.

What time do you finish work normally?
We finish up anytime between 10:45 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., depending on the night. It's early when compared to some other restaurants.

Advice to people who want your job?
Don't be afraid to start from the bottom. Be patient. Everything takes time. Find the right group of people that can help you grow and want to see you succeed. Do everything you can for those people. It's hard to stay focused sometimes, but people with such focus will separate themselves from everyone else. It's about constantly refocusing your energy on what you want.

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Reality TV finale fight night

ABC and NBC go head-to-head with big season wrap-ups on Monday.

HENRIETTA JONES
letters@metro.us

Grab the remote, ready your hashtags and prepare to vote. The heavy hitters of the competitive reality TV world air their finales tonight. Contestants from "Dancing with The Stars," "The Voice" and "American Idol" are all taking their stabs at glory, while the celebrity hosts are cashing their checks and looking relieved it's all over.

The season finale of "American Idol" airs tonight. ABC

"Dancing With the Stars"

The Tonya Harding redemption tour peaks this week after the former ice skater and scandal-maker shimmying her way to the final with partner Sasha Farber. Redskins quarterback Josh Norman also lines up for the finale, alongside Olympic figure skater Adam Rippon.

There's no doubt that Rippon is the most talented dancer, but there is genuine interest around Harding's attempt to win back public favor.

"It's not about fame, it's not about fortune," Harding told US Weekly, fresh from a camouflage dress, cowboy boots and bear quickstep number that needs to be seen to be believed. "Its about the journey of life and feeling like America has opened their arms to me and understands me better now."

Tonya Harding. ABC

WHERE TO WATCH:

8 p.m. on ABC.
Who will win? Adam Rippon. Harding might be good for ratings but it's unlikely she'll

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"American Idol"

The higher the ratings stakes the bigger the line-up, and "American Idol" (the original, but not necessarily the best reality music program out there) recruited the big names for its two-part finale, with the first part airing last night on ABC.

Judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan brushed off their vocal cords alongside Gary Clark Jr., Nick Jonas, Bebe Rexha, Patti LaBelle as well as poor old Kermit the Frog in the two-part finale. Alongside the line-up, producers squeezed in finalists Caleb Lee Hutchinson, Gabby Barrett and Maddie Poppe, with the winner announced tonight.

WHERE TO WATCH

9 p.m. on ABC.

Who will win? Country crooner Gabby Barett seems to have it in the bag, although Hutch could be the dark horse.

"The Voice"

Prepare to flick channels: Going up against "DWTS" and "Idol," "The Voice" also has its finale tonight. While this has been one of the most lackluster seasons of "The Voice," nothing has been more satisfying than seeing Kelly Clarkson turn her back on "Idol" — the show that gave her a start — and head over to "The Voice" after years of complaining about how she felt exploited as a young reality winner.

She's left with one contestant on her team: Brynn Cartelli, who goes up against Kyla Jade and Spensha Baker from Team Blake, and Britton Buchanan from Team Alicia (who received an Instant Save) for Monday's show.

WHERE TO WATCH

8 p.m. on NBC.

Who Will Win: Anyone's game.

Who are you rooting for to win "The Voice"? TRAE PATTON/NBC

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JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

DJ Royale is one of the performers for Veteran Freshman's Who Got the Beats. PROVIDED

Beginning June 1, the Historic District will be the place to be, with its Summer Sounds series, which features over 50 live music events, curated by Visit Philly.

A variety of venues are taking part in the initiative and include FringeArts along the Delaware River as well as The Philadelphia History Museum on 7th St.

"In the summer, the Historic District is packed with people all day long," says Meryl Levitz, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia in a press release. "We want to give all of them more reasons to spend their nights in the district too, and that's what this Summer Sounds series does. Nearly every evening of the week, residents and visitors can make a night of it by grabbing a bite to eat and then enjoying music under the stars in this beautiful neighborhood."

From DJs to jazz to classical, Summer Sounds has something for every music fan. Here are some events to put on your calendar.

We Got the Beats

Curated by Yusuf Muhammad of Veteran Fresh-

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Penn's Landing becomes a hot spot for music lovers in the summer months. MATT STANLEY FOR DRWC

man, this DJ-focused event happens every first Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at a different location. Artists on the lineup include Rich Medina, DJ Sylo and DJ Royale.

Who Got the Jazz

Another Yusuf Muhammad-curated event, Who Got the Jazz features talented jazz musicians and vocalists performing a fusion of jazz, soul and hip hop on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Artists on the lineup include Chill Moody, Brianna Cash and Suzann Christin.

Waterfront Sessions

Head down to Spruce Street Harbor Park for a pint and live music from artists like Killiam Shakespeare and Ivy Sole every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (beginning June 7).

Jazz in the Park

There's no better way to chill on a Sunday than with an afternoon of jazz at Spruce Street Harbor Park. Every third Sunday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., artists like Tim Brey, Ernest Stuart and Tara + DM Hotep Middleton will perform.

Concerts on Independence, sponsored by AETNA

Beginning July 21, the Great Lawn at Franklin Square will be a happening spot for concerts on Saturdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The opening event features The Philly Pops. There will also be a Dragon Beer Garden for the adults in the crowd.

Smooth Jazz Summer Nights

From Aug. 3 through Aug. 31, the sounds of jazz will fill the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing on Saturday nights, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Featured artists include the talented R&B and soul singer/songwriter, Leela James.

Street Corner Symphonies

Passersby can break up the monotony of city life thanks to Street Corner Symphonies. This traveling band (made up of musicians from the Philadelphia Jazz Project), will pop up at different locations in the historic district throughout the summer.

For more information on Summer Sounds, visit: visitphilly.com.

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Artistic cage can sense your presence

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ALL PHOTOS ENESS / TOM BLACHFORD

Interactive installation in Australia

It may look like a large bird cage, but it's actually a large-scale public artwork and interactive installation that changes in response visitors. It senses their presence via a 360-degree laser tracking system. The so-called 'JEM' is located in Brisbane, Australia and was created by the multimedia studio Eness as part of a newly revitalized open-air communal gathering art space. **MWN**

"JEM is here to unify people through a shared experience and we're excited to see how people rest, dream and play in this rare space."

Eness, the design studio

32

cascading arms of light compose the installation.

CLASS OF 2018

8 Ways to prep for financial adulthood

Congrats, grads! We know you're young, but you still should plan for the future.

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

Your future is a safe bet.

Whether you're graduating from high school or college, a diploma and a job represent the beginning of your personal — and financial — adult life.

When you have the inevitable "I have no idea what I'm doing" freakout, remember these tips:

1 Set clear financial priorities

You probably can't save, invest and pay off debt all at once, so prioritize in this order:

Save $500 for emergencies because there will be emergencies. If your employer offers a 401(k), contribute at least enough to get any "employer match" — it's free money. Pay down high-interest debt, like credit cards.

2 Learn a simple budgeting strategy

Identify your after-tax income on your pay stub, then use the 50/30/20 rule as a budgeting guideline:

Use 50 percent for necessities like rent, groceries, transportation, utilities and minimum loan payments. Put 20 percent toward savings and debt repayment. Spend 30 percent on nice-to-haves like restaurants, travel and entertainment.

If 50 percent isn't enough to cover living expenses, dip into your nice-to-haves bucket.

3 Learn how credit works and why it matters

Credit is adulthood's currency. You need good credit to qualify for travel rewards credit cards, get the best rates on loans and insurance and eventually buy a house.

To have a good credit score, you generally must: Use credit by taking out loans and opening credit cards. You don't need to carry a balance on them, though. Consistently make payments on time Use less than about 30 percent of your available credit. If you have a card with a $3,000 limit, for example, charge no more than $1,000.

Check your credit score to see where you stand. If you have bad credit or no credit, consider getting a secured credit card or credit-builder loan to boost it.

4 Do some money multitasking

Credit-builder loans can help establish credit and save money at the same time.

You can get credit-builder loans through some credit unions, community banks or the online lender Self Lender. Borrow a small amount — say, $1,000 — and repay in installments over a year or two. The lender holds the cash until the loan is repaid. Then you'll get the money, minus some interest.

5 Leverage your youth to build wealth

Speaking of retirement, saving for it is one of the best uses of your cash now. Compound interest over decades is like magic: A small amount invested today will be worth more than a larger sum you invest 10 years from now.

6 Start saving for retirement

Age 72 is the age at which the class of 2018 can expect to retire, assuming they contribute 6 percent of their incomes to a 401(k) and have a 50-percent employer match, according to a 2018 NerdWallet analysis.

If your employer offers a 401(k) with a match, sign up and contribute at least enough to get the match. Increase your contributions annually or whenever you get a raise.

If you don't have an employer-sponsored retirement account, open a Roth IRA through a brokerage or robo-adviser and contribute up to $5,500 yearly. The account's earnings will be tax-free.

7 Make a plan for your student loans

Student loan payments typically come due six months after you leave school, giving you time to get a job before payments begin. But interest accrues during this grace period — except on federal subsidized loans — so begin making minimum payments sooner if possible.

If payments on your federal student loans are overwhelming, review your options carefully. Income-driven repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness may offer relief, but both require meticulous attention to detail and annual maintenance to pay off.

8 Research your job's market value

Advocating for yourself can be a particularly challenging part of adulthood. As your career progresses, you'll feel empowered to negotiate your salary if you back your ask with hard numbers.

Research the going rates for similar roles in your field, at your skill level. Then, reference your findings during the negotiation conversation.

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SPORTS

Eagles injury updates at OTAs: Wentz, Sproles, more

With OTAs starting today, the Eagles are still contending with some notable injury issues.

LUKE MILLER
sports@metro.us

Organized team activities are here for the Eagles, and while OTAs are voluntary, you can expect a majority of the team's players to be present. There is, however, a large contingent of prominent Eagles you shouldn't expect to see on the field. Perhaps comfortingly, this year that isn't because of contract issues or general disgruntledness.

Perhaps less comfortingly, it's about injuries. The Eagles lost a well-documented bevy of star players for the season on their run to the Super Bowl. This offseason, those players already on the trainer's table were joined by starters Alshon Jeffery, Timmy Jernigan, and Brandon Graham, who all had surgery. Outside of Jernigan, none of these recent developments should impact roster availability when the first game comes around.

But what about the players who received serious dings in 2017? Here's a check in on the Eagles four most prominent injuries a season ago, and when you can expect to see the players who suffered them take the field this summer.

With the arrival of organizaed team activities (OTAs), the Eagles have some big names that still have some lingering health issues from last year. GETTY IMAGES

CARSON WENTZ

The Eagles quarterback tore his ACL and LCL during Week 14 of a season that looked like it was headed towards MVP candidacy. Since then, his backup has claimed a Super Bowl MVP trophy and ring. Wentz has been adamant that his sights remain set on a Week 1 return, but the presence of Nick Foles means the Eagles are in no hurry to rush their franchise back.

Speaking at rookie minicamps, Doug Pederson said he's "very highly encouraged with where (Wentz is) at right now. He continues to throw and get stronger." So you know the QB is throwing, but don't expect to see him in OTAs or minicamp. "He's not cleared to do anything," Pederson said, so we can expect Wentz to "just continue his rehab."

DARREN SPROLES

Sproles was the first of these players to go down for the count in 2017, breaking his arm and tearing his ACL on the same play in Week 3 against the Giants. He had led all Eagles backs in carries and yards the week before, with 12 touches for 78 yards. Despite that, at 34 and in the final year of his contract with Philadelphia, many thought Sproles would choose retirement before returning to the field. He had speculated it would be his final season before the injury.

Since the injury, Sproles has approached rehab as if he'd be continuing his NFL career, and after re-signing with the Eagles on a one-year, $1.4 million deal, that's exactly what he'll be doing. Asked if he was more excited to have Sproles back on the field or in the locker room, Pederson couldn't make up his mind. "I love that kid, the smile he brings every day," he said. "He leads more by example. He's a competitor. It rubs off on me and it rubs off on the team."

The Eagles will be cautious with everyone, but since he's been at rehabbing the longest, Sproles should be one of the players you can expect to see soonest this off-season.

JORDAN HICKS

On Oct. 23, the Eagles beat Washington handily for the second time in six weeks in front of the nation on Monday Night Football. They also lost Hicks and Jason Peters to season-ending injuries. Tearing his Achilles was a blow to Hicks, who had had injuries derail his college career at Texas and his rookie season in Philadelphia before starting 23 straight games.

Speaking in April, Hicks said from the start, he's had a "very good rehab. It feels like since day one I've been ahead of schedule."

But he avoided giving any timetable for when he'd take the field at summer camps: "The mindset especially right now is progressing every single day we don't wanna put too much workload on it, don't wanna put not enough. It's not just the Achilles, it's all the surrounding muscles. All the things that make you who you are on the field."

JASON PETERS

The biggest enigma among these players is Peters, who spoke to the media at the Super Bowl for the first time since tearing his MCL and ACL in October and who has been quiet since. Like Sproles, he's always approached it as if there was no question he'd be returning to the Eagles. A timetable of nine months to recover would put him at taking the field in mid-summer, and that sounds just about right.

Overlooked in all the Eagles off-season moves is the caliber of the injured players they are — ostensibly — adding to a Super Bowl-winning roster. There's reason to be excited. As Hicks put it:

"When you come back you're not just the same player you were. You come back and you're faster, you're stronger, you're smarter, you're a better player than you were when you left. Ultimately that has been every player in that training rooms goal."

Attendance by Eagles players at White House visit expected to be quite low

President Donald Trump, right, greets New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick during a visit to the White House last year. GETTY IMAGES

The team will celebrate their Super Bowl win on June 5.

MARK LELINWALLA
sports@metro.us

The Philadelphia Eagles have been invited to visit the White House on June 5 to be honored for their Super Bowl LII victory.

How many of the players actually wind up meeting with President Donald Trump? Well, that remains to be seen.

Late last week, deputy White House press secretary Linsday Walters said in a statement, as reported by The Washington Post that: "President Trump looks forward to welcoming the Philadelphia Eagles to the White House on June 5 to celebrate their Super Bowl LII win."

An Eagles representative then confirmed the invite, as reported by the NFL Network: "We are in the process of working through the logistic of a trip to Washington, D.C., including a visit to the White House on June 5."

That being said, the number of Eagles' players who actually make the trip on June 5 remains a mystery.

"At this point, I'm not interested in any discussions on anything right now just with the climate that's been going on in The White House," Eagles defensive end Malcolm Jenkins told local NBC 10 during a charity event that he organized in Camden, New Jersey on Thursday. "From a team standpoint, some guys have dreamed, you know, of being able to win a championship and take a visit to The White House and we're not trying to deny that to anybody. There's also a lot of guys who feel passionate about not going and so you have to try to find a balance that's fair for everybody."

Throughout different points of the 2017 NFL season, Jenkins was one of several Philadelphia players who openly stated his lack of interest in visiting Trump's White House due to the Celebrity-in-Chief's overall divisiveness. In January, before the Eagles even won the Super Bowl, the team's defensive end, Chris Long, was even quoted as saying, "I'm not going to the White House. Are you kidding me?"

So, it's beyond safe to say that the full roster will not be intact June 5 for the visit.

Jenkins saying a lot of guys feeling "passionate about not going" comes months after several players from the 2017 NBA champion Golden State Warriors, including Stephen Curry, said that they would skip a possible visit to Trump's White House, only for the president to publicly disinvite the team out of spite.

Malcolm Jenkins has been outspoken about not wanting to attend. GETTY IMAGES

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Ranking the Top 10:

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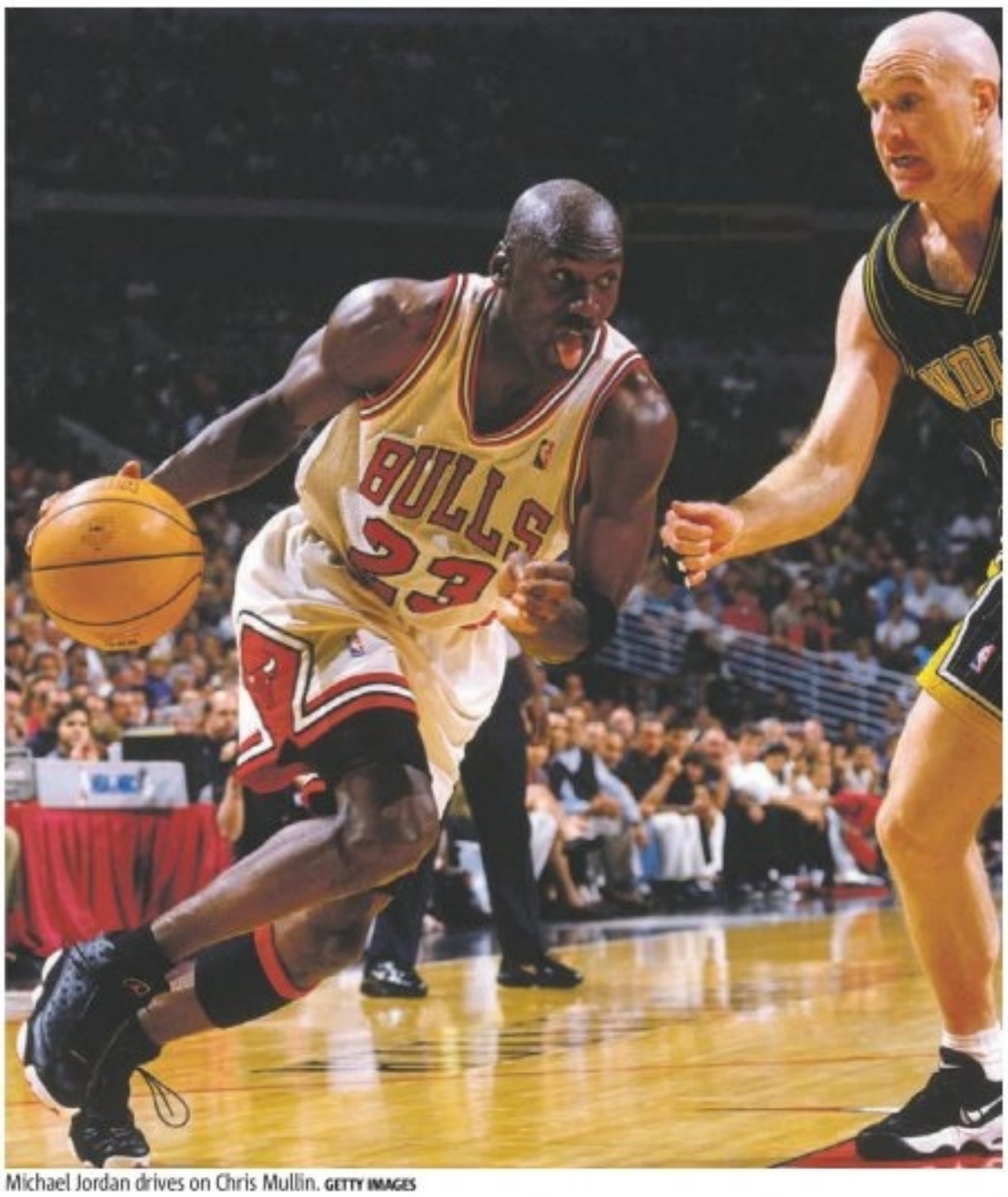

Michael Jordan drives on Chris Mullin. GETTY IMAGES

I've trotted out this list several times over the past few years and it typically ends with my email box and Twitter account flooded with hate mail and tweets.

So before all you LeBron and Wilt Chamberlain honks go crazy again, let me explain my decisions as to why they are Nos. 3 and Nos. 8, respectively.

First and foremost, I put a heavy emphasis on titles won – and don't give me the, "Ohhh, so why isn't Robert Horry on this list then?" argument, either.

Pure greatness (skill, clutchness, will-to-win) is the main criterion, and titles won is one hell of a tie-breaker in these arguments.

No, Bill Russell (who has almost double the championships as Michael Jordan with 11) was not as good a pure basketball talent as Jordan. So, Jordan gets the edge.

In the recently hotly contested Jordan vs. LeBron debate, I've gotta say it's still an easy one. LeBron's skill is equal if not greater than Jordan's - fine. But Jordan's clutchness and will-to-win was far greater than LeBron's.

The tie-breaker? Titles won.

Jordan has double the rings as LeBron has – MJ with six, and LeBron with three. And for the record, Jordan would never be down to a team led by a rookie in the Eastern Conference Finals like LeBron is right now. That's just not happening.

In my rankings last year, LeBron was parked at No. 6 overall – and I wrote the following: "LeBron is about to make it to his seventh straight NBA Finals. That is unreal. And if he duplicates what he did last year in the Finals, I've gotta think about putting him in the Magic-Bird range."

Done.

In fact, I now have LeBron three spots higher than I had him last year.

Still, the "only three titles" thing really hurts him when matched up with guys with double and triple the rings he has.

As for the old "Wilt vs. Russell" argument, again - titles won is just so overwhelming. Russell won 11 rings. Wilt won just two. It's a downright blowout.

Did Russell have better teammates throughout the course of his career? Sure. But don't act like Wilt was playing with a bunch of scrubs.

In 1969, Wilt had another guy on this top 10 list – Jerry West – on his team, along with Hall of Famer Elgin Baylor. And Wilt STILL couldn't

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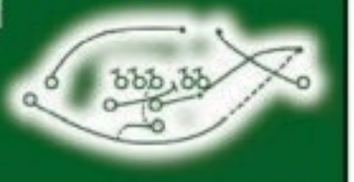

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A glance at the players who just missed the cut:

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Shaquille O'Neal
Julius Erving
Oscar Robertson
Steph Curry
Karl Malone
Charles Barkley
Kevin Garnett

beat Russell.

Disagree? We'll run your responses in print later this week. Send your gripes and your top 10 list to matthew.burke@metro.us or on Twitter @Burke_Metro.

1. Michael Jordan

Jordan's competition in the '90s was not as good as Bird and Magic's was in the 1980s or as good as LeBron's is now. But the NBA was still plenty healthy that decade. Hakeem Olajuwon, young Shaq, Patrick Ewing, David Robinson, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone and John Stockton would have been great in any era.

2. Bill Russell

There were just nine teams in the NBA in the mid-1960s. That made it easier to win titles … or did it? Gotta remember that with fewer teams, there was more elite talent to stack on one particular team. Almost every team back then could be considered a "super team," with three or four Hall of Famers stacking one roster.

3. LeBron James

Easily the best player of the past 15 years, LeBron still has to win another ring or two if we are to seriously have him dethrone Jordan.

4. Magic Johnson

He gets the edge over Bird, simply because he has five rings and

The Legend "only" has three.

5. Larry Bird

Not sure if any player on this list was as good as Bird was at his peak. From 1984-86, Bird was playing an otherworldly brand of basketball.

6. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Kareem still holds the record for points scored in a career with 38,38. That's about 6,000 more points than Jordan recorded in his career.

7. Tim Duncan

He's been retired just two years and already people are forgetting how great he was. A five-time NBA champion and two-time NBA MVP, Duncan made the Spurs contenders in three different decades.

8. Wilt Chamberlain

The guy simply overpowered people. He was the Shaq of his day. FYI, Shaq didn't make the cut here.

9. Jerry West

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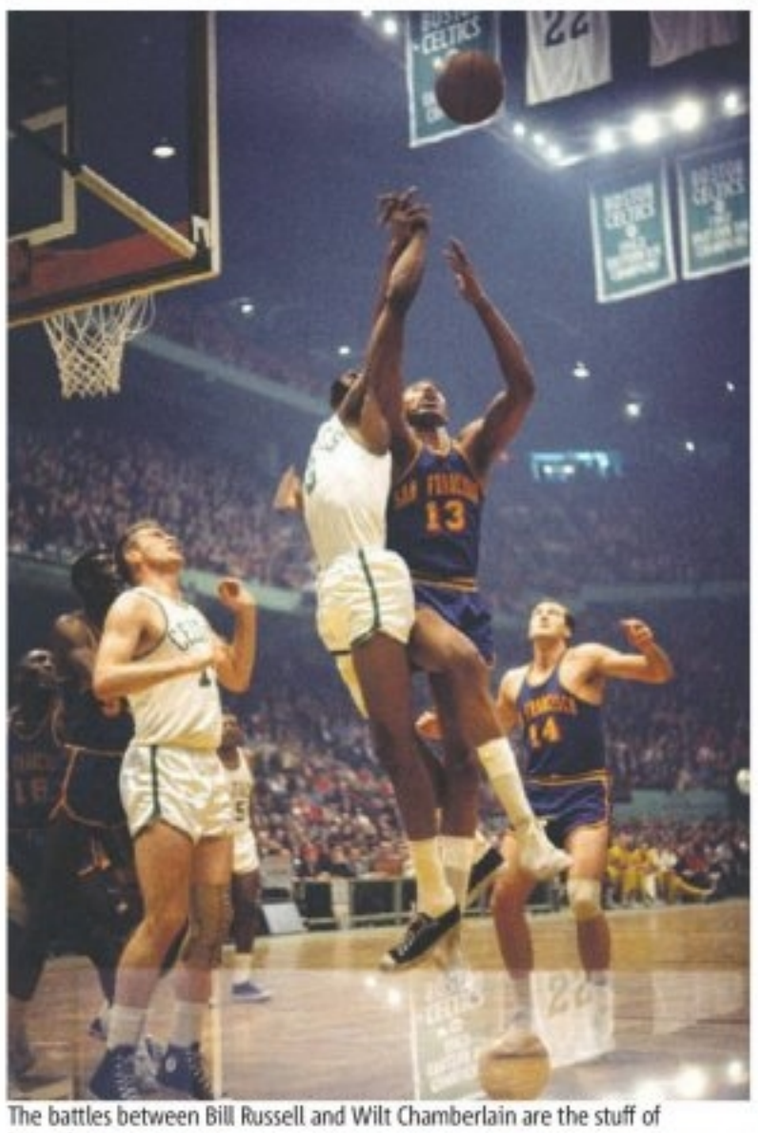

The battles between Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain are the stuff of legend. GETTY IMAGES

10. Hakeem Olajuwon

The 90s was an era of great centers and no big man was as good as Hakeem during that decade. It's just a shame we never saw the dream Finals matchup of Jordan's Bulls vs. Hakeem's Rockets.

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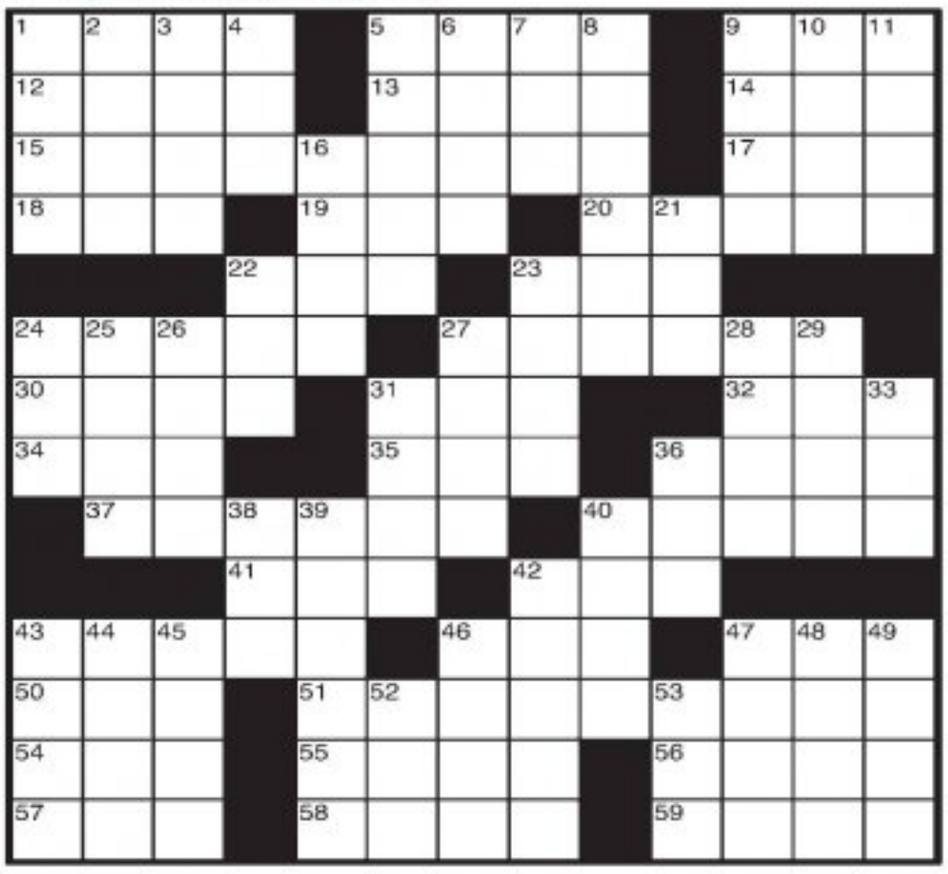

Yesterday's answers

	D	R	S		H	E	E	D		C	A	M
L	A	I	T		A	G	A	R		H	U	E
I	N	F	O		R	A	T	I	F	I	E	D
P	A	T	C	H	E	D		V	I	A	L	S
			K	I	M		H	E	N			
Q	U	E	S	T		D	I	L	A	T	E	
T	H	Y		S	K	Y	S		L	E	N	S
Y	O	R	E		N	E	S	S		N	I	L
	H	E	A	D	E	D		T	O	D	D	Y
			R	O	E		H	U	D			
C	H	A	N	T		B	I	D	D	E	R	S
L	O	P	S	I	D	E	D		E	L	I	A
A	L	E		N	O	T	E		S	L	O	G
M	E	X		G	E	E	S		T	A	T	

ACROSS

1 Not loose
5 Family man
9 Feminine pronoun
12 Nobel Prize city
13 Borodin prince
14 England's Isle of –
15 Model model?
17 NASA counterpart
18 Ecol. police
19 Regret
20 Of yore
22 Exist
23 Spring training loc.
24 Blocks
27 Hawk
30 Fancy coif
31 Ms. West of Hollywood
32 Mag. staffers
34 The "I"
35 Mi. above sea level
36 Comic strip possum
37 Shady nooks
40 Caravan stops
41 NFL scores
42 Eur. airline
43 Vocally
46 Wire measure
47 Keats opus
50 Mail pouch
51 Bird on a stroll?
54 Sporty truck
55 All, in combos
56 Where Tehran is
57 Kickoff stand
58 Slant
59 Glen or dale

DOWN

1 Volume
2 Pronto
3 Bone below the elbow
4 Heavy weight
5 Resentment
6 The chills
7 Taro root paste
8 Action movie name
9 Listen
10 Threat ender
11 Meg – of films
16 Slips up
21 Youngster
22 Earlier
23 Yard contents
24 Billiards stick
25 Links org.
26 Dumpster output
27 Cronies
28 Many August people
29 Border
31 Red planet
33 Brillo rival
36 Tillis or Dawber
38 Heat meas.
39 007 foe (2 wds.)
40 Mexican pot
42 Fuzzy fruit
43 Just touch
44 After-hours
45 Pointed arch
46 Chatty starling
47 Slimy vegetable
48 Shuffle follower
49 Coastal eagle
52 Paris friend
53 Tyler or Ullmann

Can't wait until tomorrow to check your answers? Visit **metro.us**

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